

### ***Amendments***

#### ***In the Specification:***

Please insert the following paragraph/section at page 1, after the Title of the Invention:

#### **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 National Stage application of International Application No. PCT/CA00/01150, filed September 28, 2000, and published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.

#### ***In the Claims:***

Please cancel claims 28 and 38 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in continuing applications.

Please substitute the following claim 1 for the pending claim 1:

1. (Once amended)                    A method for generating a repertory of nucleic acids of *tuf*, *fus*, *atpD* and/or *recA* genes from which are derived probes or primers, or both, useful for the detection of one, more than one related microorganisms, or substantially all microorganisms of a group selected from algae, archaea, bacteria, fungi and parasites, which comprises amplifying the nucleic acids of a plurality of determined algal, archaeal, bacterial,